ATTACHMENT II

LOUISIANA TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS FUND PROGRESS REPORT

February 18, 2000

1. DEPARTMENT/AGENCY

Academic Computing Section, LSU Medical Center-Shreveport

2. PROJECT TITLE

Internet-based Videoconferencing for Education, Administration, and Healthcare

III. PROJECT LEADER

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IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The specific aims of the project are: (1) provide gateway technology between the present and the new, internet-based videoconferencing system; (2) build a demonstration testbed for the new, internet-based videoconferencing technology; (3) migrate the best components of the testbed to a production level system that will be used by the project partners; and (4) produce a report that will be a blueprint that can be replicated efficiently and economically by other education and state agencies.

22. PROJECT STATUS

1. Brief Summary

We have completed our initial investigations for network design and have built a LAN network to support the H.323 solution in Shreveport. Building the campus LAN involved installing a networking backbone, purchasing several codecs, and installing the MCU and gateway services. We are now designing and testing methods for providing the same services to remote sites.

2. Accomplishments

Shreveport hosted a fact finding workshop for members of the project steering committee to understand the technology before deploying it. We have completed the

initial LAN design for Shreveport and consequently purchased and installed most of the necessary equipment. Components purchased and implemented include an MCU, several switches, and several codecs from various vendors. This solution has successfully also been connected to the NGI pilot backbone in Shreveport. Using this equipment we have performed successful H.323 conferences in Shreveport and also demonstrated connectivity between the H.323 systems and H.320 systems.

We have also developed a plan to allow other locations to traverse the NGI backbone and connect to the codecs and MCU services in Shreveport. Some of the needed equipment has been purchased and was successfully demonstrated at the end of February.

3. Problems Encountered/Action Taken or Planned

We encountered some minor difficulty implementing the H.323 MCU services and gateway functionality. However, the vendor has since brought in an engineer who has stabilized the system. We are planning to upgrade the system to a new version of the code when released to solve any remaining instability problems.

4. Major Milestones (Original vs. Current Estimate)

Milestone	Current Status	Current Estimate
Prepare network testbed	Design has been completed and 70% of the equipment has been purchased and installed. The remaining LAN equipment will be evaluated before determining remaining purchases. See attached network diagram for network design.	All evaluations should be complete and all equipment purchased and installed by the end of March.
Install and test H.323 systems (Codecs, gatekeeper, gateway, MCUs)	6 codecs from 3 vendors have been ordered and testing has started. We have also ordered and installed the MCU and gateway features.	We still intend to evaluate codecs from at least 2 other vendors. Gatekeeper services will be installed in by the end of March.
Conduct H.320/H.323 interoperability tests	Connectivity between H.320 and H.323 systems has been demonstrated. Currently developing testing requirements to measure performance.	After testing criteria is developed, we expect to evaluate the performance and reliability of H.320 to H.323 conferences using MCU gateway services. Testing is expected to begin by the end of February.
Conduct H.323 multivendor interoperability testing	Connectivity has been demonstrated between systems. Currently developing testing requirements to measure performance.	After testing criteria is developed, we expect to evaluate the performance and reliability of various codecs for point-to-point conferences and for multipoint conferences using MCU services. Testing is expected to begin by the middle of March.

Milestone (cont.)	Current Status (cont.)	Current Estimate (cont.)
Establish production level system among project partners	Network design to include project partners has been completed and equipment has been ordered.	Connectivity will be demonstrated by the end of March to at least three remote sites. Bandwidth concerns will be addressed and managed by gatekeeper services. Production level conferences should be available in the next fiscal year.
Develop final report and "blueprint"	The final report and blueprint has not been started.	This report will be addressed at the end of the next fiscal year after all testing has been completed.

VI. COST VS. BUDGET

Financial report for the period of May 1, 1999 through January 31, 2000	
Funds received to date	$600,000.00
Expenditures by category	
Operating services:	
Equipment maintenance	$53,593.62
Supplies:	
Teaching & research	$159.90
Professional Services:	
Bell South services	$16,800.00
Equipment:	
Teaching & Research	$174,365.60
Total expenditures	$244,919.12
Open orders	$62,086.91
Total expenditures plus open orders	$307,006.03
Funds available at the end of January 31, 2000	$292,993.97

VII. ITEMIZED EXPENSES AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS INCURRED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD